

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A manually operable pump for removing fluids from a body cavity of a subject, said pump comprising:

a fluid-tight pump body having a first end and a second end with a compressible center portion disposed between said first end and said second end,

an inflow connector attached to said first end, said inflow connector being adaptable for connection to an inflow conduit,

an outflow connector attached to said second end, said outflow connector being adaptable for connection to an outflow conduit,

an inflow one-way valve disposed between said inflow connector and said pump body, said inflow one-way valve being adapted to permit flow of fluid from said inflow conduit through said inflow connector and into said pump body but restricting backflow of fluid from said pump body into said inflow connector and inflow conduit,

an outflow one-way valve disposed between said pump body and said outflow connector, said outflow one-way valve being adapted to permit flow of fluid from said pump body into said outflow connector and into said outflow conduit but restricting backflow of fluid from said outflow conduit and outflow connector into said pump body.

2. The manually operable pump of Claim 1, wherein said inflow conduit is selected from the group consisting of a standard chest tube, an endotracheal tube, and a catheter.

3. The manually operable pump of Claim 2, wherein said inflow conduit is a standard chest tube.

4. The manually operable pump of Claim 2, wherein said inflow conduit is an endotracheal tube.

5. The manually operable pump of Claim 2, wherein said inflow conduit is a catheter.

6. The manually operable pump of Claim 1, wherein said compressible center portion is sized and configured to be compressed for effective pump operation by an operator using only one hand.

7. The manually operable pump of Claim 1, wherein said compressible center portion is sized and configured to be compressed for effective pump operation by an operator or operators using two hands.

8. The manually operable pump of Claim 1, wherein said compressible center portion is sized, shaped, and configured to be compressed for effective pump operation by an operator using foot compression on said center portion.

9. The manually operable pump of Claim 1, wherein said exterior of said compressible center portion is at least partially covered by a textured surface.

10. The manually operable pump of Claim 1, wherein said pump is effective in removing fluids, blood clots, and air from a body cavity of a subject suffering from hemopneumothorax.

11. The manually operable pump of Claim 1, wherein said pump is adapted to be connected to an autotransfusion device.

12. The manually operable pump of Claim 1, wherein said inflow one-way valves and said outflow one-way valves are effective to allow fluid passage through said inflow and outflow valves when said pump is so positioned such that all power for fluid flow is provided by gravity alone.

13. The manually operable pump of Claim 1, wherein said pump is effective to remove fluid from said body cavity of a subject using manually provided power alone.

14. The manually operable pump of Claim 1, being a first pump, is adapted for connection to at least one additional manually operable pump in series so as to provide a manually operable pump system.

5 15. The manually operable pump of Claim 1, wherein said pump effectively removes blood, blood clots, fluid, and air from a body cavity, the pump generating a negative pressure in the range of 5 mm to 100 mm Hg.

16. A method of removing fluid from a body cavity of a subject, the method comprising:

10 providing a manually operable pump according to Claim 1,
inserting a distal end of said outflow conduit into a cavity of said subject from which fluid is to be removed,
manually compressing said compressible center portion of said pump body intermittently so as to remove fluid from said cavity.